

Annual Reunion—Address of Colonel William Allan.

A LARGE, BRILLIANT AUDIENCE AT THE

HALL OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES—

JACKSON'S BRILLIANT VALLEY CAMPAIGN REVIEWED—THE BANQUET.

The Army of Northern Virginia returned

always attracts a crowd and excites deep

interest. Last night was no exception. At

an early hour the audience began to assem-

ble in the hall of the House of Delegates,

and before the hour for the speaking be-

gan the hall was crowded to its utmost

capacity with brave men and fair women.

Among those present were Colonel Jones

Holiday, General J. A. Dyer, W. D. Lee,

W. Lee, Fitz Lee, W. C. Lee, D. M. Lee,

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May, and number him back through the

mountains until he was for the time out

of the way of his projected movement on

Bank.

And now begins what was really the

"Valley campaign." Banks had fallen

at Sharpsburg, and he was fortifying

himself, leaving a part of his command

to John McDowell at Fredericksburg and

with his forces to the column of 40,000,

with which he was to join McClellan before

Richmond. Events follow rapidly: Jack-

son and Ewell unite, and sweep down

the Shenandoah valley; the flank of

Banks's position is surprised at Front Ro-

yal, and he avoids being in the rear by

a rapid retreat. At Middletown Banks's

column is cut in two, and Jackson pushes

on to Winchester by a night

which is illumined by the burning wagons

and stores of the retreating enemy. A short

resistance on the hills is followed by the

pell-mell retreat of Banks through the

streets of Winchester and on to the Potomac.

Colonel Allan then shows that the Potomac

of this victory was not simply the driving

of Banks from the Valley, the capture

of 3,000 prisoners and immense stores of

every description, but that McDowell's ad-

vance on Richmond was at once suspended

and the widest retreat produced.

In Washington and at the North. He quotes

telegrams from Mr. Lincoln, McDowell, &c.,

to show the condition of things; how Jack-

son was employing the forces of Banks,

Frederick, those of Fremont, and that he

showed the daring, skill, and celerity of Jack-

son shine out even more conspicuously on

his retreat, by which he eludes his pursu-

ers, escapes the snare set for him, and de-

fended in detail at Cross Keys, and the

public the fact that he was in a position to

crush him at Sharpsburg, where Jackson won,

although he had fifty miles to march, Fre-

mont only thirty-eight, and Shields but

twenty—the five days of masterly retreat,

and the splendid strategy by which Jack-

son defeated Fremont at Cross Keys, and

the next day routed Shields at Port Poin-

ter—are all vividly and accurately portrayed.

Colonel Allan concluded by saying: I have

tried to give you, fellow soldiers of the

Army of Northern Virginia, an outline of

one of the most brilliant campaigns of the

war. Time has not permitted me to dwell

on the great deeds which crowded these few

months, or to characterize in fitting terms

of panegyric the mighty actors in them. I

have attempted nothing beyond a simple

and carefully accurate statement of the

facts. I can only help to clear away

from one campaign the dust and mists

of memory which already gather over the

memories of the great struggle. It may

do more. It may by touching the electric

chord of association transport us for a

time into the presence of the majestic dead,

whose like another and a higher life,

and the contemplation of which should tend

to strengthen, elevate, ennoble.

It is wise in our day, it is wise always,

to recur to the deeds of the past, to

recall the devotion to great principles

which have made our country what it is,

and the noble virtues of our fathers, who

have bequeathed to us a noble heritage.

Colonel Allan was loudly applauded as

he took his seat.

At the proposal of the President,

the thanks of the Association were unani-

mously tendered to Colonel Allan for his

valuable address, and exceedingly valuable

address.

The officers were unanimously and

enthusiastically re-elected.

THE BANQUET

at the St. Claire Hotel was a most splendid

affair.

The decorations of the room and of the

tables, and the bill of fare, elegantly served,

was all that could be desired, and reflected

the highest credit on the committee.

It was a banquet of the most brilliant

and one which will be remembered for

many years to come.

THE BANQUET

General De Francisco found their triumph

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